

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20  
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Rip Scherer and the 1996 University of Memphis football team on their resounding 21-17 victory over the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very proud of our athletic teams who work hard, do not give up, and win despite being told that it is impossible for them to do so; and

WHEREAS, in one of the greatest upsets in Tennessee history, the University of Memphis football team came from behind to beat the heavily favored, sixth-ranked University of Tennessee 21-17 at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium on November 9, 1996; and

WHEREAS, after the Vols had taken a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, Keith Spann of the Tigers intercepted a Peyton Manning pass and returned the ball all the way from the Memphis 27 to the Tennessee 1-yard line. Memphis quarterback Qadry Anderson then scored on the next play to produce a 7-7 half-time score; and

WHEREAS, after Tennessee took a 14-7 lead in the third quarter, Kevin Cobb, who grew up in "Big-Orange Country", made a game-breaking play by taking the ensuing kickoff, racing up the right side of the field, getting hit and flipping in the air, landing on one arm and racing down field, 95 yards for a touchdown; and

WHEREAS, after the Vols scored a field goal to lead 17-14, late in the fourth quarter, Tiger quarterback Qadry Anderson took charge to lead Memphis on a game-winning drive that consumed more than five minutes and was highlighted by Jeremy Scruggs' rushing, and

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Chancy Carr's pass reception, and culminated in an exciting three-yard Anderson-to-Chris Powers-touchdown pass with just 34 seconds remaining, sending the University of Memphis/Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium record crowd of 65,885 into bedlam; and

WHEREAS, this game marked the first-ever win over archrival Tennessee, the 100th win for the Tigers at the Liberty Bowl and broke Tennessee's perfect 17-0 road record in the month of November (since 1985); and

WHEREAS, the victory was the first Memphis win against a ranked opponent since their defeat of number 25 Mississippi State in 1993, the first win against a ranked opponent at the Liberty Bowl since the Tigers' win over number 16 Alabama in 1987 and the highest ranked opponent Memphis has defeated since upsetting number 6 Auburn in 1975; and

WHEREAS, it was the first time the goal posts at the stadium have been torn down since 1983; and

WHEREAS, this exciting contest was the Tigers first-ever victory on national television; and

WHEREAS, the biggest game in school history was witnessed by more than 100 high school football recruits and more than 280 members of the media; and

WHEREAS, it was the fourth straight game in which the Memphis defensive secondary intercepted a pass in the end zone; and

WHEREAS, because of the great Tiger defensive effort, led by Marvin Thomas, Marquis Bowling, Marcus Gary, Tim Hart, Richard Hogans, Manny Santibanez, Tony Williams, and Andre Woods, Tennessee was limited to a paltry 85 rushing yards in 49 attempts; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee All-American quarterback Peyton Manning said of the game: "Memphis just flat whipped us"; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Rip Scherer, in only his second season, has done a masterful job and has come a long way towards building a quality program that relies on hard work, discipline and organization; and

WHEREAS, his very capable assistant coaches include Sparky Woods, Offensive Coordinator; Maurice Knight, tight ends; Rusty Burns, running backs; David Lockwood, wide receivers; Jim Marshall, offensive line; Jim Pletcher, Defensive Coordinator; Keith Butler, defensive ends; Wayne Weedon, defensive line; Vic Koenig, secondary; John Flowers, Administrative Assistant; Jeff Brookshire and Mike Tomlin, Graduate Assistants; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to specially recognize and congratulate the University of Memphis football team on this outstanding victory; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Rip Scherer and the 1996 University of Memphis football team on their victory over the sixth-ranked the University of Tennessee and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.